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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Mansfield Receives \$500,000 STEAP Grant for Infrastructure in Storrs Center

January 4, 2012 – Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced Tuesday that the Town of Mansfield was among the recipients of 2012 STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grants. Mansfield has been awarded a \$500,000 grant for infrastructure improvements along Village Street, part of Storrs Center, the multi-phase, mixed-use downtown currently under construction near the University of Connecticut and E. O. Smith High School.

Village Street will serve the retail shops, restaurants, and offices to be located within the new downtown, which has been designed to be pedestrian-oriented and to accommodate a variety of transportation modes. Village Street is part of an integrated transportation plan that includes accessibility for buses, other transit vehicles, cars, bicycles, and pedestrians throughout the new “Main Street” area. (The STEAP grant will fund the construction of the utilities (water, sewer, gas, electric) and on-street parking along a portion of the Village Street.)

Town Manager Matthew Hart appreciates the state’s support, commenting “We are looking forward to many new and diverse businesses on the future Village Street, which will bring life and vitality to our new downtown, as well as additional tax revenue and jobs for Mansfield and the region.”

Construction of the first phase of Storrs Center began in June 2011. The first buildings are located along Dog Lane, across the street from the University of Connecticut School of Fine Arts and from E. O. Smith High School. These buildings will feature commercial spaces on the first floors and residential spaces above. To date, five businesses have signed leases for the first phase (Dog Lane Café, Froyoworld, Storrs Automotive, Select Physical Therapy, and Moe’s Southwest Grill) and master developer LeylandAlliance is in the midst of discussions with many other businesses. The residential units, which will include studio-, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, will be owned and managed by LeylandAlliance’s development partner Education Realty Trust (EDR).

Also under construction is a new parking garage. The parking garage will provide parking for the new residents of Storrs Center as well as parking for visitors and employees of the many new businesses in

the downtown. Unlike the first buildings, the parking garage is a public project, funded through a \$10 million grant from the State and administered by the Town of Mansfield. The parking garage will also have spaces for a car-sharing program and charging stations for electric vehicles. And, the garage will be adjacent to the intermodal transportation center or "ITC." The ITC is another public project, part of a \$4.9 million grant from the Federal Transportation Administration, which the Town is coordinating. The ITC will feature waiting areas for bus passengers, information for commuters, storage for bicycles, and other amenities to support the use of many different modes of transportation.

"It has been exciting to watch the construction of the first phase of Storrs Center," says Mansfield Downtown Partnership Executive Director Cynthia van Zelm. "As we continue to work on the future phases, the STEAP grant will help us meet our goal of beginning construction of Village Street in the spring."

The first phase of Storrs Center is scheduled to open in August 2012. For more information about Storrs Center, visit www.storrscenter.com.